1	Edmund G. Brown Jr.
2	Attorney General of California GREGORY J. SALUTE
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General HELENE E. SWANSON
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 130426
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013
6	Telephone: (213) 897-2540 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804
7	Attorneys for Complainant
8	BEFORE THE
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No.
12	2010-149
İ	KENNETH LEON NOLAN 37311 Fullmoon Street Palmdale, CA 93550 A C C U S A T I O N
13	
14	Registered Nurse License No. 483378
15	Respondent.
16	D. A. DITTLE C.
17	PARTIES (V. T. a. 1) And the state of the st
18	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her
19	official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"),
20	Department of Consumer Affairs.
21	2. On or about August 31, 1992, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number
22	483378 to Kenneth Leon Nolan ("Respondent"). Respondent's registered nurse license was in
23	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein. The license will expire on
24	February 28, 2010, unless renewed.
25	STATUTORY PROVISIONS
26	3. Code section 118, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the suspension,
27	expiration, surrender or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to
28	proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed,

restored, reissued or reinstated.

- 4. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Code section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
  - 6. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct . . .
- (d) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violating of, or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act] or regulations adopted pursuant to it.
- (f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof . . .
- 7. Code section 2762 states, in pertinent part:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

- (a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022.
- (c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, or the possession of, or falsification of a record pertaining

to, the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section, in which event the record of the conviction is conclusive evidence thereof . . .

#### 8. Code section 2765 states:

A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere made to a charge substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a registered nurse is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this article. The board may order the license or certificate suspended or revoked, or may decline to issue a license or certificate, when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information or indictment.

9. Code section 4324, subdivision (a), states:

Every person who signs the name of another, or of a fictitious person, or falsely makes, alters, forges, utters, publishes, passes, or attempts to pass, as genuine, any prescription for any drugs is guilty of forgery and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year.

10. Code section 490, subdivision (a), states:

In addition to any other action that a board is permitted to take against a licensee, a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.

- 11. Health and Safety Code section 11170 states that no person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance for himself.
  - 12. Health and Safety Code section 11173, subdivision (a), states, in pertinent part:

No person shall obtain or attempt to obtain controlled substances, or procure or attempt to procure the administration of or prescription for controlled substances, (1) by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge . . .

#### **COST RECOVERY**

13. Code section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

27 | ///

-///

#### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AT ISSUE

14. "Norco", a combination drug containing hydrocodone bitartrate 10 mg and acetaminophen 325 mg, is a Schedule III controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (e)(4).

### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Criminal Conviction)

15. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code sections 2761, subdivision (f), and 490, subdivision (a), in that on or about April 26, 2006, in the criminal proceeding titled *People v. Nolan, Kenneth Leon* (Sup. Ct. Kern County, 2006, Case No. MF007302A), Respondent pled nolo contendere to violating Code section 4324, subdivision (a) (forged prescriptions, a misdemeanor), a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse. The circumstances of the crime are as follows: On or about October 19, 2005, while on duty or assigned to work as a registered nurse in the Emergency Room at Tehachapi Hospital, Tehachapi, California, Respondent stole a prescription form belonging to the hospital. On or about October 25, 2005, Respondent wrote a prescription for 151 tablets of the controlled substance Norco (with 3 refills) on the stolen form for himself under the name of Dr. A., without Dr. A.'s knowledge or authorization, forged Dr. A.'s signature on the form, and then attempted to obtain the Norco via the internet.

### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

## (Unlawful Prescription of a Controlled Substance)

16. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (a), in that on or about October 25, 2005, Respondent prescribed the controlled substance Norco for himself, as set forth in paragraph 15 above.

#### THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Conviction of a Crime Involving the Prescription of a Controlled Substance)

17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), on the grounds of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Code section 2762,

LA2009603374

accusation.rtf

28